

## Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00  
NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 ICAC-00 INRE-00 PM-05 H-02  
INR-10 L-03 PA-02 SP-02 SS-15 /076 W  
-----100778 242301Z /13

O 242230Z AUG 78

FM USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2976

INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY GABORONE IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LAGOS IMMEDIATE

C/AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE 6782

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY MAPUTO IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS USUN 3296

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SOPN

SUBJ: UN NAMIBIA COMMISSIONER GIVES BRIEFING ON  
MISSION TO NAMIBIA.

1. SUMMARY: UN NAMIBIA COMMISSIONER MARTTI AHTISAARI  
BRIEFED THE UN CORRESPONDENTS ABOUT HIS RECENT MISSION  
TO NAMIBIA AT THE UNITED NATIONS AUGUST 24TH. READING  
FIRST FROM A PREPARED STATEMENT, AHTISAARI NAMED THE AREAS  
HE, HIS STAFF AND THE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE HIGH  
COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES VISITED IN NAMIBIA. HE STATED  
THAT THROUGHOUT ALL THEIR TRAVELS, HE WAS GRATIFIED BY THE  
SPIRIT OF COOPERATION AND GOOD WILL ON THE PART OF ALL THE  
VARIOUS PARTIES CONCERNED. THE KEY ISSUES THAT WERE  
RAISED WITH THE VARIOUS PARTIES INCLUDED QUESTIONS OF  
REGISTRATION OF VOTERS, THE DATE OF ELECTIONS AND INDEPEND-  
ENCEHAND OVERALL TIMETABLE FOR A SETTLEMENT OF THE  
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NAMIBIAN SITUATION. HE ADDED THAT HE DISCUSSED THE  
TECHNICAL ASPECT OF THE PROBLEMS WITH ADMINISTRATOR  
GENERAL STEYN WITHOUT GIVING THE SPECIFICS OF THE  
DISCUSSION. HE SAID THOSE ISSUES WILL BE GIVEN ALL THE  
ATTENTION THEY DESERVE IN HIS REPORT TO THE SECRETARY-  
GENERAL. THE PREPARED STATEMENT ENDED WITH AHTISARRI SAYING  
HE WILL BE LEAVING NEW YORK SUNDAY FOR VIENNA TO SUBMIT

HIS FINDINGS TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL. A QUESTION AND ANSWER PERIOD FOLLOWED.

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2. THE FOLLOWING ARE HIGHLIGHTS OF THE QUESTION AND ANSWER PERIOD:

--THE MISSION WAS NOT TO FIND OBSTACLES BUT TO LOOK FOR A FORMULA TO DETERMINE THE UN ROLE IN NAMIBIA. HOWEVER, THE FIRST OBSTACLE WAS TO OVERCOME UNFOUNDED SUSPICIONS ABOUT THE UN AND QUESTIONS ABOUT UN IMPARTIALITY. AHTISAARI SAID PROGRESS WAS MADE IN THAT AREA.

--IT IS IMPORTANT TO REALIZE THE TRANSITION STAGE HAS NOT YET STARTED AND WILL START ONLY AFTER THE SECURITY COUNCIL MAKES A DECISION ON THE SECRETARY GENERAL'S REPORT AND THE MONITORING OF THE CEASEFIRE BEGINS.

--IT IS HARD TO DETERMINE A TIMETABLE BECAUSE ADEQUATE TIME MUST BE ALLOWED TO REACH INDEPENDENCE. AHTISAARI ADDED, WE CAN'T "STEAMROLL" WE MUST TAKE LOGICAL STEPS-- THE UN IS NOT THERE TO TAKE OVER NAMIBIA BUT TO SUPERVISE THE WHOLE PROCESS AND TO CERTIFY ELECTION RESULTS. MORE IMPORTANT THAN THE FINAL DATE OF INDEPENDENCE IS FIRST THE WHOLE PROCESS OF GETTING THERE.

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--IT WILL BE IMPOSSIBLE FOR THE UN TO CARRY OUT ITS MISSION UNLESS ADEQUATE FINANCING IS FORTHCOMING.

--HE HOPES BORDER INCIDENTS WON'T HAMPER THE ONGOING PROCESS NOW.

--AS FAR AS COOPERATION WITH SOUTH AFRICAN ADMINISTRATOR GENERAL STEYN, AHTISAARI SAID HE SINCERELY HOPES IT IS DEVELOPING. HE ADDED THAT HE GOT GOOD INFORMATION ON

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CATEGORIES OF PEOPLE NEEDED FOR THE TASKS. HIS STAFF HAS HAD GOOD CONTACT WITH THEIR COUNTERPARTS AND NO COMPLAINTS HAVE RESULTED. HE ADDED THAT WHAT THEY ASKED FOR THEY GOT.

--AHTISARRI DID NOT DELINEATE THE SPECIFIC RECOMMENDATIONS HE WILL BE MAKING TO THE SECRETARY GENERAL. HE SAID IT IS EXTREMELY DIFFICULT TO SAY WHEN THE SECURITY COUNCIL MAY MEET BECAUSE IT ALL HANGS ON THE SECRETARY GENERAL'S REPORT AND WHEN MEMBERS OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL FEEL THEY ARE READY TO DISCUSS IT. (SPECULATION AROUND THE UN IS THAT THE SECURITY COUNCIL WILL PROBABLY MEET SEPTEMBER 5.)

--ASKED ABOUT THE NEW EVIDENCE THAT SOUTH AFRICA IS FORCING PEOPLE TO REGISTER, HE SAID HE HAS HEARD SUCH REPORTS AND THAT SUCH COMPLAINTS ARE BEING MADE.

--AS TO THE NUMBER OF UN FORCES IT MIGHT TAKE TO DO THE JOB, AHTISAARI CONCLUDED THAT IT WOULD BE UNFAIR TO REVEAL BEFORE SEEING WALDHEIM WITH SPECIFIC RECOMMENDATIONS HE WILL BE MAKING.

3. AHTISAARI IS SCHEDULED TO MEET WITH WALDHEIM ON MONDAY, AUGUST 28TH IN VIENNA AT THE UNIDO HEADQUARTERS.  
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## Message Attributes

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**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** BRIEFING MATERIALS, VISITS  
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**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 24 aug 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** n/a  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:**  
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**Disposition Event:**  
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**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
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**To:** STATE  
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**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
20 Mar 2014  
**Markings:** Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014